

When I was a boy, the FCC required the people who were given the right by the government to broadcast television and radio to the public were obligated to provide public service programming that was fair and balanced. Recent FCC rulings and actions show that this is no longer the case. Sinclair broadcasting is a case in point. I know that many in the FCC come from the right, but have you no shame?

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.